



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Acting Director of Public Health

At its meeting held June 13, 2006, the Board took the following action:

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The following item was called up for consideration:

Recommendation as submitted by Supervisors Yaroslavsky and Molina:
Instruct the Acting Director of Public Health to develop a comprehensive strategy and media campaign directed at prevention and intervention of syphilis and other Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), and encouraging safe sex practices among all sectors of the population, particularly communities of color, and to report to the Board at the Tuesday, June 13, 2006 Board meeting, on the last syphilis awareness campaign conducted by the Department of Health Services, specifically on how the \$1 million allocation was targeted and utilized, the outcomes and lessons learned and any and all culturally and linguistically appropriate materials and approaches used; also instruct the Acting Director of Public Health to report to the Board within 30 days on a comprehensive strategy and media campaign, including an estimated budget and timeline, including the comprehensive strategy and media campaign directed at the prevention and intervention of syphilis and other STDs taking into account the increase in reported cases among women and the Latino and African-American communities, and provide a specific focus on cultural, linguistic and gender appropriate materials.

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The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisors Yaroslavsky and Molina:

“On June 1, 2006, the Department of Public Health released the 2005 *Early Syphilis Surveillance Summary* for Los Angeles County. There were 1,217 reported cases of early syphilis in 2005, representing a 41% increase from 2004 and a 188% increase from 2001. The cases of early syphilis are still concentrated among men who have sex with men and men who have sex with men and women; however, a disproportionate increase in early syphilis cases has been reported in African-American and Latina women, who accounted for 42% of reported early syphilis cases in 2005. While effective treatment for syphilis is available, the Department of Public Health must develop and implement additional strategies to prevent, identify, and treat those who are infected as soon as possible. Anything less will lead to a continual spread of syphilis and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).”

Dr. Jonathan E. Fielding, Acting Director of Public Health, presented the attached report relating to syphilis and other STD control efforts by the Department of Health Services including the Department's last syphilis awareness campaign and how the \$1 million allocation was targeted and utilized, the outcomes and lessons learned, and the cultural and linguistic appropriate materials and approaches that were used. Dr. Jorge Montoya, Assistant Director, Community Outreach Program Evaluation, Department of Health Services, responded to questions posed by the Board.

Jeff Bailey, Director of AIDS Project Los Angeles, Dr. Genevieve Clavreul and Andrew Aherling also addressed the Board.

After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Yaroslavsky, seconded by Supervisor Molina, unanimously carried (Supervisor Knabe being absent), the Acting Director of Public Health was instructed to:

1. Develop a comprehensive strategy and media campaign directed at prevention and intervention of syphilis and other Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) that encourages safe sex practices among all sectors of the population, particularly communities of color; and

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2. Report to the Board within 30 days on the comprehensive strategy and media campaign, including an estimated budget and timeline, with the campaign directed at the prevention and intervention of syphilis and other STDs that takes into account the increase in reported cases among women and the Latino and African-American communities, and provides a specific focus on culturally, linguistically and gender appropriate materials.

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Attachment

Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Director of Health Services